

FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

December 2011



YOU'VE EARNED IT

December 7, 1941 was a defining moment in America's history – “a day that will live in infamy,” President Franklin Roosevelt told the country.

For our nation, this day marked the first of 1,351 days of war and mobilized 16 million young Americans, one of them being 21-year old Paul Baer.

Paul Baer enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942, and was assigned to Pearl Harbor in 1943. With his machinist experience, he became a 1st Class Motor Machinist Mate in the 302nd Navy CB Battalion. Paul's battalion was stationed directly across the bay from where the Arizona was sunk during the Pearl Harbor attack.

Paul served in the Navy until 1945, both at his home base of Pearl Harbor and traveling to the beaches in the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Anguar, Peleliu, and others. It was not until after he retired from civilian life though that he came to VA. Paul's friend recommended he go to VA Butler Healthcare when he found himself needing a hearing aid. Now 91 years old, Paul comes to VA Butler for his primary care and

prescriptions. He works closely with his VA health care team, known as a Patient-Aligned Care Team, or PACT.

A PACT uses a team-based approach. Veterans are the center of the care team that also includes family members, caregivers, and health care professionals. “They treat me like family,” Paul said. Working together, Veterans and their PACT team plan for care and life-long health and wellness; care that Veterans have earned through their service and sacrifice.

To other Veterans, Paul says “You are a Veteran – you've earned it! Go there [VA Butler].” At VA Butler, our health care professionals are privileged and honored to take care of our Veterans every day. We have the freedoms we share today as Americans thanks to our brave men and women from all service eras. Visit us, call us at 800.362.8262, or check us out online at www.butler.va.gov; we're here for you.

“You are a Veteran – you've earned it! Go there [VA Butler].” Paul Baer

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...DECEMBER

- 1 The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is founded [The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services] (1941)
- 3 The first successful heart transplant is performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard (1967)
- 7 The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor is bombed in a surprise Japanese attack (1941)
- 10 American Veterans of WWII (AMVETS) is founded (1944)
- 21 Anesthesia is used for the first time in Britain during an operation at University College Hospital in London (1846)
- 28 Congress officially recognizes the Pledge of Allegiance (1945)



2011 marks the 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks on December 7, 1941.

Join VA Butler Healthcare in thanking our past, present, and future military for their service and sacrifice.





WOMEN VETERANS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Every December, VA Butler Healthcare hosts a Women Veterans Christmas Program & Tea to celebrate with and show appreciation for our women Veterans. It is also an opportunity for our women Veterans to learn more about the opportunities, programs, and services offered at VA Butler.

For more information about women Veterans health services, contact VA Butler's Women Veterans Healthcare Program Manager at 800.362.8262, ext. 2756 or visit www.butler.va.gov/services/womenvets.asp.

*Have a Happy & Healthy
Holiday Season*

We want to hear from you!
Email amanda.wilczynski@va.gov
or lauren.heiger@va.gov to share
your story with us!

DECEMBER IS INTERNATIONAL AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

June 5, 1981, was the first case of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). VA has been part of the fight against HIV/AIDS since the beginning, taking care of some of the first patients that year.

Today VA is the largest single provider of HIV care in the country, taking care of approximately 24,000 Veterans with HIV a year. VA has the latest and best treatments available for HIV, enabling VA patients with HIV to live healthier,

longer lives. VA's goal is to diagnose HIV infection as soon as possible, in order to get patients the right care.

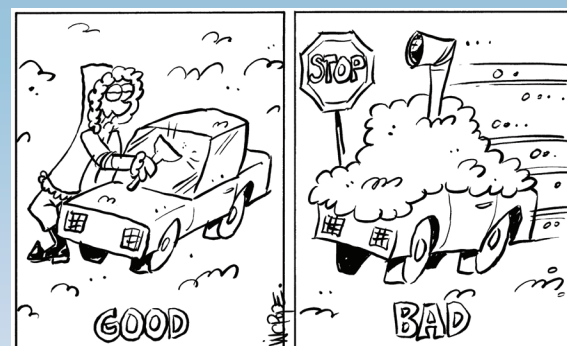
The importance of early detection of HIV cannot be overstated. VA facilities nationwide are working towards making sure that every Veteran is tested for HIV at least once in their lives and those at risk are tested at least every year.

For more information about VA and HIV care visit www.hiv.va.gov.

WINTER SAFETY

Take Steps to Prepare for Winter Weather

Preparing your home and car in advance is your best defense against extreme cold-weather conditions. Listen to weather forecasts regularly, and check your emergency supplies whenever a period of extreme cold is predicted.



You can weatherproof your home by adding weather-stripping, insulation, insulated doors and storm windows, or thermal-pane windows. You can avoid many dangerous winter travel problems by having regular maintenance service on your vehicle, checking the antifreeze level, and replacing any worn tires. Also, be sure to keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines, and keep an emergency travel kit in your trunk.

Visit www.prevention.va.gov/Be_Safe.asp for more information. Take good care!

EVENTS

- 11 **December Podcast • VA's Rural Health Initiative**
Thursday, Dec. 1 • 12-12:30 pm
Chat link: talkshoe.com/tc/85029
or Call in: 724.444.7444 (Call ID: 85029)
- 10 **Women Veterans Christmas Tea**
Saturday, Dec. 10 • 1-3 pm
VA Butler Healthcare Auditorium



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